

Pauline Newsletter

April 2020



*A quick note from the Manse,
It is a real joy to be back amongst you during these challenging times.*

Reconnecting with folk by phoning or Zoom-ing around is a real priority for me and I'm enjoying catching-up with folk. Please bear with me as I am still in my phased-return, with limited hours - but will get to everyone!

*It is great to see that we are still a Church, even without a building.
Please be assured, I am around and very happy to receive phone calls, emails, messages, carrier pigeons, if you could use some support or just for a natter.*

*God is with us, my friends - may we continue to reflect this light to each other!
Every blessing,*

Martin

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Hello Everyone

We are adding a few extra editions of the Pauline whilst we are all staying safe at home, if you get really bored you can always read it! 😊

COPY DATE FOR NEXT EDITION - 11 May for issue 18 May



Exciting news from Saira & Andrew Dean. Andrew wrote 'introducing Laurie James Dean - Laurie from the Laurel tree, symbolising Victory which we felt was quite apt at the moment'. He was born 15th April at 8:21 pm weighing 6lbs 11oz, mum and baby doing brilliantly. Ellis & Jensen have loved meeting their new brother.

If you are taking your exercise up at Croham Hurst or Coombe Woods, Lloyd Park etc. you may well have seen some beautifully decorated stones, painted by children (and I suspect some adults) and left by trees and shrubs for everyone to enjoy on their walks.

A great message of reassurance found in the grounds of Emmanuel church. Difficult to read in the photo: Do not be afraid for I am with you. Isaiah 41:10

Good News Isaiah 41:10

Do not be afraid - I am with you! I am your God - let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect and save you.

Please do send, post or call me if you would like to add something to our newsletter - it would be great to hear from you. Pat Granville-Overton 47 Castlemaine Avenue South Croydon CR2 7HW, patgo123@aol.com 07742 859552 or 0208 688 2857. Next Copy date 11 May



THE FOODBANK

WAYS YOU CAN HELP IN 2020



CartoonChurch.com

<https://www.purleyfoodhub.net/>

Corona Virus – A New World?

1. As I write, we await the government's first review of the 'lockdown'! it is also Maundy Thursday, when the Queen gives out 'special coins' to those who have done a lot for their community, and ends with Jesus having that last meal, with friends, of whom, one was to betray him, for money. At this moment, there are thousands, who are helping, on the front line, or new ways, such as shopping, phoning the isolated, trying to help with modern IT, so we can carry on life in a new way, or changing their business to meet new markets.
2. The levels of stress, for some, will be high, as the world realises, we are all dependent on each other. Some will lose their jobs, homes, business, and others will adapt, or use their creative side, to try new ventures, hobbies, friendships, and to re-evaluate, what and who is/are important, in their lives. The world has come through big challenges e.g. the Black Death/ Great Plague/ Spanish Flu/ World Wars, and though at present leaders & government are struggling to help as many as possible, we do not know the long term socio – economic, health, financial & political consequences for all.
3. In life, one is usually more regretful over not trying something, as opposed to being too scared, wishing you had changed your job, or gone somewhere new, or not tried to complete that bucket list, before life ends. Many are dying early, or having operations delayed, and like Jesus saying 'why have you forsaken me', many of faith, other or no faith, will/may be angry, but God's plan is always different from ours, where, one day the question 'Why' will be answered.
4. I know St Paul's is playing its part, wherever you live in the community, and like the parables of the 'talents', those with much ability, are no doubt, very busy, but everyone can do something. I have had several phone calls, making sure I am ok, so kindness, thoughtfulness and even just the smallest thing, can bring a smile. Most of you will know me as the one who questions, challenges, considers how much something will cost, or can we try out a new way, or do it better. I may be a technophobe, struggling to update my IT skills, on how to use a smartphone, and with my car, out of action, I am limited in what I can do, but I am using my skills in other ways, including having just written to the Cabinet Secretary twice, Sir Keir Starmer and Local MP Chris Philp.
5. We do not know how the world/Europe /Britain, will look at the end, but for a few, we will realise are far more important than previously thought. Pollution & climate change are less, it is quieter, you can actually talk to a neighbour, spend more time with family, or speak/text more often. No doubt a few will take advantage, but youngsters today are very aware, we are all part of the world family, and such agencies as the World Bank/WHO/EU etc need to step up to this new challenge. Prayer, talking, listening, will get us through, and remember, that like on Easter Day, we rejoice that Jesus is Risen, giving hope to all. We shall look back, and realise, God has done this for a purpose, hopefully creating a kinder, more tolerant society, for all. In the meantime, enjoy your hot cross buns & chocolate eggs, while I try to work a smartphone!

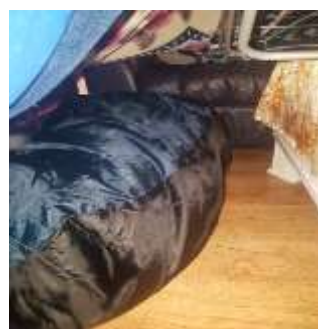
Stay healthy and happy and be inspired by the Holy Spirit and super fund raiser Captain Tom Moore.

David White

Report from the Scout Group and Croham Valley Explorer Scouts for The Pauline

Since mid-March all our weekly section meetings have been suspended and our headquarters is effectively mothballed. However, like many Groups we have been holding virtual meetings online using Zoom and these have been reasonably well 'attended'.

The programme content requires quite a lot of imagination and careful planning, but there have been some notable successes including an online picture quiz for the Scout Troop. We have also tried other activities to keep everyone focused and not going 'stir crazy'. Some Scouts took part in Jamboree on the Internet the weekend before Easter, and we were able to engage with Scouts in many countries around the world, deriving that feeling of solidarity in the process. Others have been sending greeting cards to elderly people in local care homes. Badgework has continued and Scouts have either gained or are working on the Artist, Astronautics, Chef, and Hobbies badges, and the Personal Challenge Award. On the night of Easter Monday everyone was challenged to either camp out overnight in the garden or build a den indoors and sleep in it. Here are some photos for you to enjoy!



Looking ahead we have a bake-off, quiz, and a scavenger hunt planned while on April 24th we shall be renewing our Scout Promise online, hopefully with help from the Minister! Further ahead we pray for the day life can return to some sort of normality and social distancing is a thing of the past.

As a Group our main concern is finance. Like St Paul's, we have lost lettings income but still have outgoings such as water rates and council tax. Also, we know that money generally will be tight as in some cases parents will lose their jobs and that may include some of our leaders too. We are considering reducing subscriptions for the time we are isolating, but we cannot afford to cancel them altogether.

At the time of writing there does seem to be some light at the end of the tunnel, and I am optimistic that we shall be back in business before too long. We shall be celebrating our return in some way and looking to recruit new members for all sections. Scouting has so much to offer and every young person in the neighbourhood is welcome to be a part of it.

Christopher Dean
Leader

This is a page to colour for Junior Church

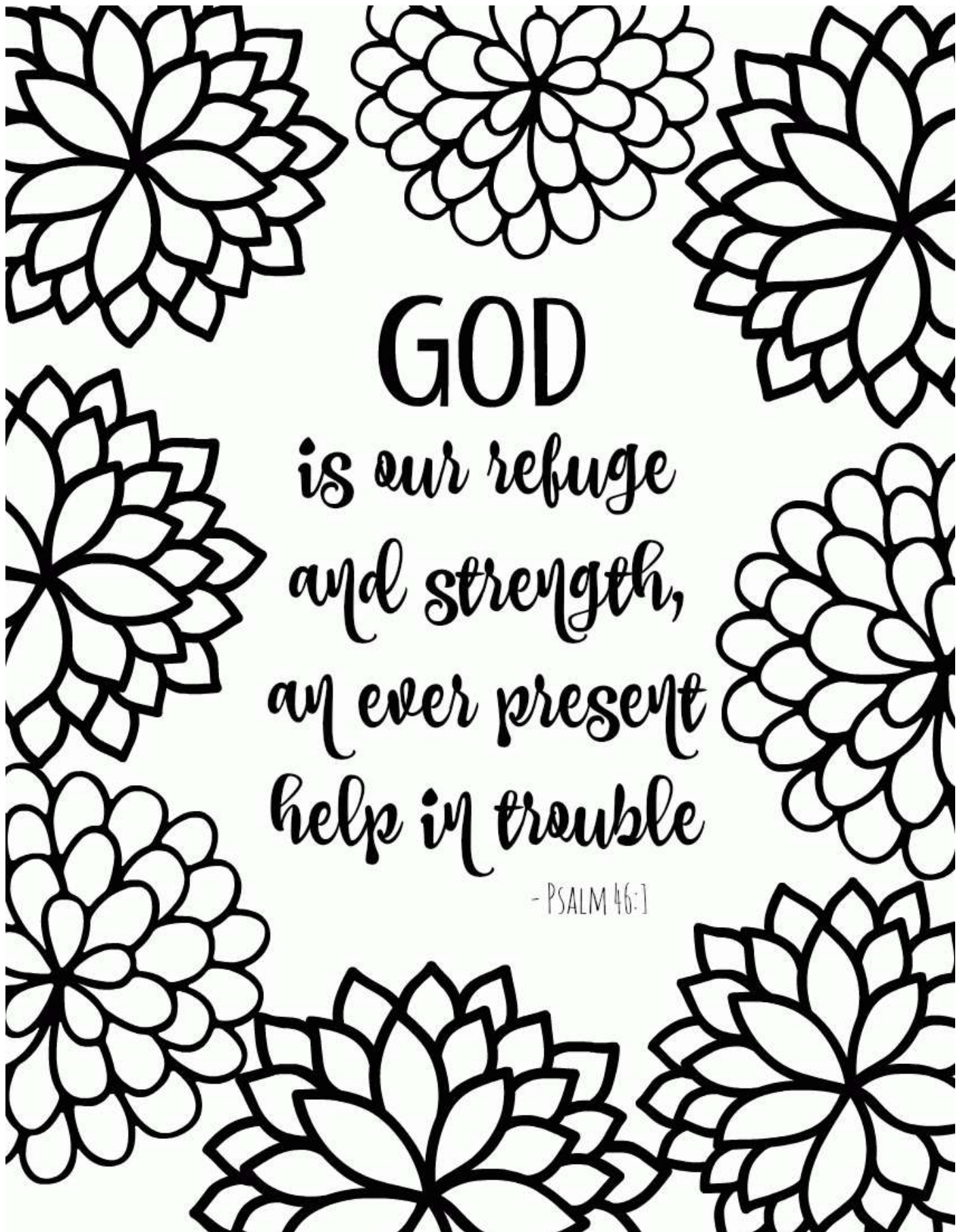
If you have a chance please have them ready to show us on Sunday



The disciples tried and tried to catch some fish. When they obeyed Jesus, they caught so many fish their nets almost broke!

JOHN 21:1-6

Julie has shared some brilliant colouring of the Low Sunday reflection message – here's a chance to see what you can do too! If you need crayons Sue can drop some off.....



GOD

is our refuge
and strength,
an ever present
help in trouble

- PSALM 46:1